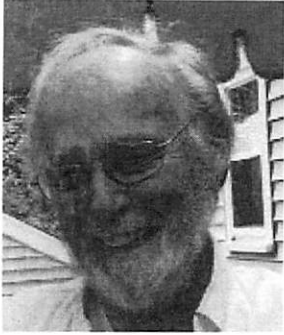


Edward Lincoln Hardy, 79



Edward Lincoln Hardy of Duxbury left this life on Oct. 10. Ed was a beloved father, teacher, artist, dreamer and philosopher. He was a freethinker who studied the clouds and stars, a pilot who took to the skies because he loved the Earth and a teacher who broke all the rules. Ed was born Dec. 17, 1937, in Duxbury to Norman and Anna Belknap (Walker) Hardy. He grew up one of seven children on a farm on East Street in Duxbury. He graduated from Duxbury High in 1957, and attended North Adams State College in western Massachusetts with a degree in education.

After serving in the Marines, Ed drove across the U.S. and had adventures in New Orleans and elsewhere along the way. He took a teaching job in California, where he coached youth soccer and met his future wife DeEtta (Dee) Gray. After teaching for several years, and the birth of his first two children, Ed and Dee moved back to Duxbury. They adopted four more children and fostered many others. Ed was known as Papa to his family.

Ed began a long career as a teacher in Carver and Plymouth. He was an innovative and unconventional teacher who brought a bicycle into the classroom to teach about ratios, who used the "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" to teach about geography, and who created the PCIS Olympics to teach about the metric system. In the summers between school years, Ed had his own painting and roofing business. Ed and Dee raised their six children on a small farm across the street from where he grew up in Duxbury. The whole family participated in tending the garden, raising chickens, pigs and cows, and caring for cats, dogs and horses. At the end of the long work day, Papa enjoyed quiet time in the barn sitting by lamplight with Daisy, the milk cow.

Ed had a unique and enduring sense of humor, and a deep humility, which meant that he was quiet about his extraordinary intelligence and abilities. His deep love of nature kept him walking in the pine woods of Duxbury throughout his life. Ed took solace in the spirituality of nature, and wanted us to remember that, as he wrote, "We are part of the Earth. We talk about taking care of the environment as if it were some separate entity from ourselves, but 'us' is a total package, meaning all that is the Earth and even beyond."

Ed took the time to notice the flight of a swallow, the bending of a blade of grass, the softness of milkweed as it went to seed.

His compassion for humanity was matched by a lack of patience for the nonsense of bureaucrats and bullies. He was not a political man, but he wasn't afraid to speak up when he thought it necessary. Ed created a yellow ribbon memorial for the fallen of the Iraq war in the conservation woods behind his house, creating a quiet place where walkers could honor the dead and question the morality of war.

After retirement, becoming a pilot was a long-deferred dream come true. He co-owned a small blue experimental RV4 plane, which he named Jonathan after his favorite book, "Jonathan Livingston Seagull," which in many ways was his bible. Inspired by Jonathan, Ed extended his dream by learning aerobatics, including rollovers, loops, wingovers and stalls.

At his 50th high school class reunion, he met and fell in love with Tricia Thompson, a high school friend he had not seen since he borrowed her chemistry lab notes in 1955. They spent the last 10 years together laughing, loving and philosophizing.

He leaves behind his loving friend and partner, Tricia Thompson, daughter Heather Hardy and her husband Jason Anthony, son David and his wife Richilda Hardy, son Jesse Hardy, daughter Jennifer Hardy, daughter Rebecca Hardy, son Jason Hardy, ex-wife Dee Guido, sister Ellie and her husband Burt Schultz, sister Alice and her husband Ron Peck, sister Elizabeth Hardy, brother Stephen Hardy, and grandchildren Anna, Tobin, William, Abija, Sean and Savanna.

Ed was predeceased by his parents, his sister Ann Carlson and his brother David Hardy. As Ed had requested, a small private family memorial was held Oct.15 at Howland's Landing, Duxbury. Memories of Ed and letters of condolence for his family can be sent to 269 East St., Duxbury, MA 02332.

To honor Ed's life, please care for all of nature, support underdogs, fulfill your lifelong dreams and help others do the same. For those who would like to donate to a cause in Ed's name, please consider Partners in Health (www.pih.org), which builds health systems in poor communities around the world. Also, Ed planned to establish a college scholarship in his parents' names at Duxbury High School; please contact Tricia Thompson at 269 East St., Duxbury, if you would like to contribute.

Here is one of many nuggets of wisdom from Ed's notebooks: "My life has been one of joy and sadness, one of ease and struggle, of tears and laughter, and most of all, of gratitude. We are all fortunate and lucky to be part of this miracle, Life. We are all an art form, constantly being created, never reaching perfection. That's the marvel of it all."

And finally, from "Jonathan Livingston Seagull": 'Keep working on love.' "